1992 since 17 May, 1993. The National Commission for Minorities has not submitted any Report including its Annual Report so far. The Commission has, however, submitted the 14th Annual Report of the erstwhile Minorities Commission for the period 1.4.91 to 31.3.92 on 9 February 1995. The Report is under examination.

Salary scales of Imams

4273. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made in the direction of giving all Imams in India the salary scales of Punjab Imams, as per the Supreme Court order;

(b) what is the total number of Imams in the country;

(c) what will be the total salary bill of all the Imams in India under this dispensation;

(d) what will be the contribution of the Centre and the States to this salary bill;

(e) whether Government have any schemes for a similar salary scale for the priests of other religious communities; and

(f) the reasons for rejecting the Attorney-General's advice to appeal to the Supreme Court in the matter as reported in The Hindustan Times dated the 27th January, 1995?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITA RAM KESRI): (a), (c) and (d) The Scheme as per directions of the Supreme Court has not been finalised as yet.

(b) Information is being collected.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The Government is considering all aspects before taking a final decision in the matter.

संयुक्त राष्ट्र बाल कोष का प्रतिवेदन

4274 श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी: क्या कल्याण मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि संयुक्त राष्ट्र बाल कोष के अद्यतन प्रतिवेदन के अनुसार भारत में कुपोषण के शिकार अधिकांश व्यक्तियों में से मुख्यत: बच्चे हैं ; प्रतिवेदन के अन्य निष्कर्ष क्या हैं और इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं ; और

(ख) गर्भवती महिलाओं और मंदबुद्धि व्यक्तियों की सहायता के लिये क्या उपाय किये जा रहे हैं ?

कल्याण मंत्री (श्री सीताराम केसरी) : (क) और (ख) सूचना एकत्रित की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जायेगी ।

Homes for aged persons

4275. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) How many homes for aged are there in the country State-wise;

(b) whether Government have thought of giving manual or clerical work, whichever is suitable to these aged people; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to consider the idea to tap the resources from the aged in the interest of the country?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITA RAM KESRI): (a) A Statement indicating the Old Age Homes assisted under the Scheme of "Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Programmes relating to Aged" is attached (*See* below).

(b) and (c) The Ministry is implementing a Scheme of "Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Pro-

grammes relating to Aged". The Scheme aims at providing physical, social, emotional, psychological and economic support to the aged (60 years and above) with a view to help them to continue to be useful and active members of the community. The aged who lack family support and are unable to fend for themselves and/or do not have assured income usually will have a prior claim to the benefits available under the scheme. The objective of the scheme is to encourage voluntary organisations in general and organisations of the elderly in particular to provide old age homes, day care centres, medicare services, and non-institutional services for the aged. The scheme however, does not provide for manual or clerical work. There is no such proposal to tape the resources from the aged in the interest of the country.

Statement

Statement indicating the States/Union Territories-wise number of Old Age Homes assisted during 1994-95 *under the Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for Programmes relating to Aged :—*

Sl. No.	Name of State/ Union Territory	No. of Old Age Homes
1.	Andhra Pradesh	68
2.	Assam	1
3.	Bihar	2
4.	Haryana	3
5.	Maharashtra	4
6.	Manipur	9
7.	Karnataka	10
8.	Kerala	3
9.	Madhya Pradesh	5
10.	Orissa	21
11.	Tamil Nadu	22
12.	Tripura	2
13.	Uttar Pradesh	29
14.	West Bengal	24
15.	Delhi	1
16.	Pondicherry	1
		205

Wheel Chair and other Orthopaedic Equipments for Handicapped persons

4276. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to draw up a plan to provide a wheel chair and other orthopaedic equipments to all the handicapped people in the country by 2000 A.D.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what steps are proposed in this direction on a year-by-year basis from 1995-96; and

(d) the full details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITA RAM KESRI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Welfare has been providing aids and appliances to the handicapped persons including wheel chairs under the Scheme of Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids/appliances (ADIP) since 1981. Though there is no proposal to cover all orthopaedically handicapped persons by 2000 AD under the scheme efforts are being made to cover maximum number of disabled persons under the scheme including the orthopaedically handicapped.

(c) and (d) An amount of Rs. 55 crores was earmarked for the ADIP Scheme during the 8th Five Year Plan. So far Ministry has spent an amount of Rs. 32.78 crores during the first three years of 8th Five Year Plan (92-93 to 94-95). About 1.87 lakh handicapped persons have been given aids and appliances during the above period. The Ministry will spend remaining amount of grant (Rs. 22.22 crores) during 95-96 and 96-97 to cover an estimated 1.80 lakh disabled persons.

The coverage of orthopaedically disabled during remaining years, i.e., 1997-98 to 1999-2000 will depend upon the allocation of funds under the scheme during the 9th Five Year Plan.